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THOUSANDS OF TREES

Report of Nuuanu Nursery Eight Months.

Extent of Lantana Blight on Koolau Side of This Island.

Mr. Giffard to Act as Head of Agricultural Board in Mr. Thurston's Absence.

The Board of Agriculture and Forestry held its regular meeting yesterday, a quorum being constituted by C. S. Holloway, secretary and executive officer, W. M. Giffard, Jas. D. Doie and J. E. Brown.

As the first item of business, Mr. Giffard was appointed to act in place of L. A. Thurston, president, during the latter's absence from the Territory.

SUPERINTENDENT OF FORESTS.

Mr. Giffard orally reported from the committee on forests and nurseries. The new superintendent of forests, Ralph S. Hosmer, arrived last week in the steamer Siberia. Whilst he had not reported to the Board as a whole, he had done so to the president. At Mr. Thurston's suggestion Mr. Hosmer immediately went to Hawaii to investigate forestry conditions in Hamakua and Kohala. It was presumed he would make a report of his investigation, and that his further movements would be decided by the Board in session.

NUUANU FOREST NURSERY.

Secretary Holloway read a report from David Haughs, forester, on the Nuuanu nursery. It was read and referred to Superintendent Hosmer, being as follows:

Nuuanu Forest Station,

Jan. 11, 1904.

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, Gentlemen: I herewith submit the following report of the work done in reforesting the upper part of Nuuanu valley from May 1 to December 31, 1903, a report having been given for the four months of the year previous to May 1. At Governor Dole's request a report was made to him for the year ending June 30, 1903, the same being now on file in the office.

For the past year we have had to rely entirely on what seed could be collected around here, as there has been no seed imported for forest purposes. We have got our supply mostly from the Tantalus forest, where a number of the trees are now bearing. On our last visit to the forest we found the following species in seed: Eucalyptus, Citriodora, E. Calophylla, E. Robusta and E. rostrata, and by making a thorough search many more of the species of this family might be found bearing seed. Other kinds of trees may also be found bearing in forest, such as different species of the Casuarina, Syncarpha laurifolia and others, all of which are good forest trees, although most of them have been tried in Nuuanu without much of a success, owing to the heavy winds. Still they ought to do well in less exposed places. We have found in many instances that seed collected from the trees growing here is more satisfactory than imported seed of the same kind. In the first place, a larger percentage of the seed collected here will germinate than imported seed. Then again the trees from which the seeds have been taken are acclimated and the plants from such trees are likely to make a faster growth to begin with.

The planting done in Nuuanu during the past eight months has been confined to the lower slopes on a piece of land between the old and new roads. This piece of land is a little less exposed to the wind than the land higher up and consequently the trees are making a faster growth. The percentage of trees that have died on this piece of land so far is very small, not over one per cent. The same system has been followed as on the other lands, namely, planting six feet by six feet, making 1210 trees per acre.

The following are the number and varieties of trees planted during the past eight months: 3500 Acacia Melanoxylon, 2000 Casuarina equisetifolia, 5000 Grevillea robusta, 7000 Eucalyptus robusta, 100 Ochrosia Sandwicensis. Trees to the amount of 15,000 remain in nursery. The varieties are as follows: Acacia Melanoxylon, Casuarina equisetifolia, C. quadrivalvis, C. Subrosa, C. Torulosa, Eucalyptus Calophylla, E. robusta, Grevillea robusta, Maba Sandwicensis (Lama), Ochrosia Sandwicensis (Hole).

Respectfully submitted,
DAVID HAUGHS,
Forester.

MODE OF PLANTING.

Mr. Brown suggested that six feet apart was too close for the planting of large trees.

"They thin them out," Mr. Giffard explained.

"They expect some of them to die," Mr. Holloway added.

Mr. Brown questioned if close planting did not involve an extra amount

of labor. Of course it was a practical question.

Mr. Giffard supposed the superintendent of forestry would have his own ideas on the matter. All gardeners had individual theories and methods.

Mr. Dole thought it would be well to have an estimate of the cost of raising trees, and thus have something upon which they could act. Mr. Giffard stated that it was the idea of Mr. Haughs that the Nuuanu nursery should be suspended and more important work taken up. Since the arrival of Superintendent Hosmer, however, they should leave this matter to him. Mr. Dole then moved that Mr. Hosmer be asked to make an estimate of the cost of propagating forest trees at the Nuuanu nursery. The motion carried.

Mr. Giffard, from the entomology committee, submitted reports from members of the staff of the entomological department, which appear below. The first was on the lantana blight, as seen on the Koolau side of this island, and read as follows:

THE LANTANA BLIGHT.

Honolulu, T. H., Jan. 20, 1904.

Gentlemen: On the 10th inst. at the request of Mr. Giffard I inspected with him the scale-infected lantana on the Kailua road. The infected area was very conspicuous from quite a distance, the foliage having a much darker appearance than that of the healthy bushes, owing to a sooty fungus which is nourished by the honey dew exuded, and on closer inspection the leaves were found to be curled and covered with the insect (Orthesia insignis). Only one patch was observed on the S. W. side of the road, but on the opposite side the infected bushes extend for a long distance along the fencing, where I was informed it was originally introduced. Whether the road has proved to be to some extent an isolation belt, as the scarcity of the insect on the S. W. side would suggest, or whether its dispersal there has been checked by the prevailing winds, is a difficult point to decide.

To the casual observer the area of infection appears much greater than is really the case, since large patches of guava, also, have the same dark appearance. This, however, proved on examination to be caused by a mealy-bug (Dactylopius sp.).

No Orthesia scale was found upon guava, even when growing up through badly infected lantana. A more thorough examination, however, would be necessary to decide the absolute immunity of the former plant. Further along the road toward Maunawili a healthy growth of lantana was found to have a few Orthesias, showing that its distribution is by no means limited. The danger of its presence near coffee cannot be estimated, since it is known to attack that plant among others in Ceylon and is found upon various plants in South Africa (Capetown, Natal, Port Elizabeth and E. London), the West Indies (Trinidad, Jamaica and Antigua) and British Guiana, from which locality it is supposed to have originated.

One very practical method of checking the pest, as suggested by Mr. Giffard, would be to cut down and burn the infected patches.

Yours truly,

F. W. TERRY,

Assistant Entomologist.

Mr. Giffard, in advocating the necessity of keeping the Orthesia in check, said if he could get Mr. Bolte, owner of lands in the locality, to act with him they would employ men at private expense to go to work in cleaning up the Kailua patches. (The speaker is the representative of W. G. Irwin, owner of Maunawili mentioned in the report.)

THOMAS SQUARE BLIGHT.

The following report on the Thomas Square blight was read:

Honolulu, T. H., Jan. 20, 1904.

W. M. Giffard, Esq., Special Committee on Entomology.

Dear Sir: The "black blight" in Thomas Square is merely the ordinary fungus growth which follows the attack of mealy-bug. It is confined to a few trees only (banyans) which on account of their large size would be very expensive and difficult to treat. Moreover, as the scale-bug causing this black blight is on practically every banyan tree in the country and on various other trees, it is sure to return immediately after treatment. It is therefore better to wait the opportunity of securing an efficient natural enemy for this scale-bug. On the whole I may say that Thomas Square is singularly exempt from insect pests and compares most favorably with the average yard or garden about town.

Yours obediently,

R. C. L. PERKINS,

Assistant Superintendent of Entomology.

OTHER MATTERS.

Mr. Holloway reported the tree fumigating plant ready for service, except for the drying of paint on the canvas.

Mr. Giffard told of some successful experiments by Gardener Austin in fumigating with cyanide of potassium. Mr. Holloway read a note from Mr. Kirkaldy, entomological inspector, reporting that he had rejected five boxes of fruit from China.

Mr. Giffard presented a requisition from Mr. Perkins for various supplies to the entomological division which would cost about \$1500. It was laid over for consideration. Mr. Holloway making the remark that there was some money in sight now since the County Act had been knocked out.

St. Douglass.

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even a mouse.

When mama awoke with a start and a shake,
And wondered why papa

Was so wide awake;
A rumbling and roaring
Soon came to their ears—

A noise that would follow them,
All through their years.
For down near the bath room
The water rushed out,

And it caused poor papa
And mama to shout.
"Oh, why did we make such a fearful
mistake?"

"Oh, John dear, I fear that
My poor heart will break,
Unless you will promise
That tomorrow you'll call
Bath the plumber, and have him
Go over it all."

And then no more leaks,
For we know that 'tis true,
That folks always call Bath
When there's plumbing to do."

Phone 61.

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